



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

STATED MEETING, DECEMBER 6, 1842.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Two living specimens of *Crotalus durissus* from Pennsylvania. From Dr. John K. Mitchell.

Mr. Peter A. Browne presented the following collection of Mineralogical specimens from Nova Scotia.

Iron Ore containing Fossil Shells.

Coarse Jasper enclosing crystals of Siliceous Sinter and calcareous Spar.

Jasper, from Two Islands, Bay of Fundy.

Jasper, striped, from Blomidon.

Fortification Agate, do.

Moss Agate, Two Islands, Bay of Fundy.

Siliceous Sinter and Cacholong, do.

Cacholong enclosing Quartz.

Siliceous Sinter, Two Islands, 2 specimens.

Mezotype, do.

Chabaisie, do. 2 specimens.

Heulandite, do.

Do. Black Rock, Bay of Fundy.

Do. Blomidon.

Mesolite or Needlestone, Blomidon.

Apophyllite, Blomidon.

Chalcedony enclosing Amethyst, do.

Chalcedony.

Analcime, from Two Islands.

Do. with Stilbite, Blomidon.

Do. with Siliceous Sinter, Blomidon.

Stilbite, from Black Rock, Bay of Fundy.

Fibrous Gypsum, white, Blomidon.

Do. variegated, Two Islands.

Calcareous Spar, Two Islands, 3 specimens.

Do. double refractive, Starr's Point, Cornwallis.

Selenite, fibrous and lamellar, Blomidon.

Pebbles, from Bay Chaleur.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Voyages en Scandinavie, en Laponie, &c. &c. Par M. Elie de Beaumont. From the Author.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Prof. Johnson mentioned that he had made trials to determine the volatile and earthy ingredients of the so-called natural coke from Virginia, of which samples were exhibited at a preceding meeting of the Academy. This substance presents in its exterior appearance a strong contrast with all known varieties of either anthracite or bituminous coal. It is wholly wanting in lustre. It has lost, if it ever possessed, all continuous slines or cleats, and even the surfaces of deposition appear to be in a great degree obliterated. Its texture is porous. It is in very many, if not all specimens, strongly charged with iron pyrites, which, by exposure to the air, efflorescing into sulphate of iron, gives the appearance of friability to the material, and by this means distinguishing it clearly from anthracite.

Two samples of this combustible were tried for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of earthy matter, volatile matter, and fixed carbon. The first gave of

	per cent.
Volatile matter,	11.16
Carbon,	77.86
Earthy matter,	10.98

100.

The second, which appeared to be rather more highly charged with pyrites than the other, gave, by the mean of four separate incinerations, of

	per cent.
Earthy matter, only	2.43
Fixed Carbon,	82.75
Volatile matter,	14.82

100.

The distillation of this fuel by the immediate application of a red heat, produces a gas which burns with a steady clear flame, of a yellowish white colour, accompanied by a little smoke, which, however, nearly or quite disappears when the access of air is free and abundant.

The distillation produces no enlargement of volume or adhesiveness of the particles of carbonaceous matter, as in certain semi-bituminous or "transition" coals, such as that found on Stony Creek, in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania.

In regard to the applicability of the term "natural coke" to this substance, Prof. J. remarked, that understanding this term as indicating a change of texture from that of the bituminous coal of the same district, a partial discharge of the volatile ingredients of the same coal, and as a necessary consequence, a rela-

tive augmentation of the earthy material as well as of the fixed carbon, he saw no impropriety in its use, but, on the contrary, a peculiar propriety, inasmuch as neither of the other terms in general use to designate mineral fuel is applicable to this variety. He referred to the geological report of the State of Virginia, in which an analysis of this substance is given, exhibiting its composition as follows, viz.:

Carbon,	80.30
Volatile matter,	9.98
Ash,	9.72

BUSINESS BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION.

Mr. Phillips offered the following Resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to determine the nomenclature of the N. American Naiades, preparatory to their being arranged in the collection of the Academy.

The Committee consists of Messrs. Phillips, Haldeman and McFarland.

STATED MEETING, DECEMBER 13, 1842.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

A Monograph of the Rhamphastidæ. By John Gould. Folio. London, 1842. From Mr. Haldeman, in exchange for other works.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

A letter was read from M. Arago, Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences, of France, dated Paris, September 26, 1842, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy, &c.